

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 6386

LIMDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ELLSWORTH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJ: KEY ELEMENTS OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE

REFS: A. USNATO 6307

B. USNATO 6289

USNATO 6374

D. USNATO 6376

1. SUBJECT OF CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY HAS RECEIVED AND CAN AT DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL RECEIVE FULL FORCE OF US VIEWS ENUNCIATED IN (A) US LONG DRAFT TEXT, WHICH ALL ALLIES HAVE HAD BEFORE THEM CONSTANTLY FOR TWO MONTHS, AND (B) US ALTERNATIVES ON ALL KEY ELEMENTS NOW UNDERGOING FINAL PULL-TOGETHER, ESPECIALLY KEY ELEMENT ON RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STRATEGY AND RESOURCES.

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2. IN LAST WEEK OR TWO WE HAVE, IN ADDITION TO GLOVES-OFF SESSIONS WITH FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR SCHUNEMANN (REFS A AND B), MET INDIVIDUALLY WITH AND WORKED ON DRC REPS OF BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, ITALY, NETHERLANDS, NORWAY, TUDKEY, AND UK, AND ON MORNING

15 NOVEMBER MET ONCE AGAIN WITH SCHUNEMANN, WHO THIS TIME WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS DEPUTY, ARENDT (REF C). OUR EFFORTS TO EDUCATE, PERSUADE AND CONVINCE OUR ALLIES HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS, REF D COVERING 15 NOVEMBER DRC MEETING ON MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE REPORTS, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSIDERABLE WELCOME CHANGE IN ORIENTATION OF FRG AND OTHERS TOWARD US POSITION ON KEY ELEMENTS DISCUSSED THERE.

3. WE HAVE GIVEN NO QUARTER HERE ON WELL-UNDERSTOOD GROUND THAT U.S. OBJECTIVE IS TO KEEP ISSUES SHARPLY DRAWN AND OPEN FOR FULL AND FRANK DISCUSSION AT MINISTERIAL DPC. WITHOUT FORGETTING OR FORSAKING THAT OBJECTIVE, WE NOW JUDGE THAT A FEW INCONSEQUENTIAL LANGUAGE CHANGES, FULLY CONSONANT WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S EXPRESSED VIEWS, WOULD BE "COST-EFFECTIVE" IN HELPING TO SECURE SUPPORT FROM MAJOR ALLIES FOR KEY ELEMENTS OF U.S. POSITIONS. THE MINOR MODIFICATIONS COVERED IN REF D ARE ONE RESULT; AND THEY HAVE GAINED SIGNIFICANT FRG AND OTHER ALLIED SUPPORT WITHOUT DETRACTING FROM FULL CONCEPTUAL STRENGTH OF US POSITION.

4. ON SAME GENERAL SUBJECT, THE EXPRESSION QUOTE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE UNQUOTE HAS CREATED A LOT OF UNNECESSARY PROBLEMS WITH SOME ALLIES BECAUSE IN LAYMAN'S LANGUAGE IN GERMAN (GLEIHGEWICHT), IN FRENCH (EQUILIBRE), AND PROBABLY IN OTHER TONGUES AS WELL, IT COMES ACROSS AS MEANING EVEN-STEVEN. THIS IS NOT, REPEAT NOT, WHAT US POSITION MEANS, AS SECRETARY SCHLESINGER HIMSELF HAS MADE CLEAR. WE THEREFORE SUGGEST THAT INsofar AS POSSIBLE THE EXPRESSION BE AVOIDED AS INCITING UNNECESSARY AND MISLEADING DISPUTATION. QUOTE STALWART CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY UNQUOTE IS FINE, AS WOULD BE OTHER EXPRESSIONS THAT MAKE US POINT AS STRONGLY AS WE WANT WITHOUT THE CONNOTATION OF QUANTITATIVE EQUALITY IN THE EXPRESSION QUOTE CONVENTIONAL BALANCE UNQUOTE. SOME ALLIES MAY OF COURSE BE ALLEGING SEMANTIC PROBLEMS TO COVER THEIR CONCEPTUAL DISAGREEMENT, BUT SURELY WE ON OUR SIDE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE TO DIG IN ON ONE BUZZ-WORD EXPRESSION IF AVOIDING IT, WITHOUT COMPROMISING WHAT WE BELIEVE, CAN WIN ALLIED SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITIONS.

5. MISSION APPRECIATES INFORMED, UNDERSTANDING, UNFAILING, AND
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PROMPT GUIDANCE AND ASSISTANCE DURING THESE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE DISCUSSIONS NOW APPROACHING THEIR CULMINATION WHEN SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MEETS WITH COLLEAGUES ON DECEMBER 10-11.

MCAULIFFE

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